

~~SECRET~~  
HEADQUARTERS  
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS, FIFTH ARMY  
(305TH CIC DETACHMENT)  
APO 464

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10 September 1944

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: BRESCIA Antonio, called "Solitario".  
RE : Disposition of Subject.

On 8 September 1944 Subject was sent to this office from a refugee point in Florence bearing a note dated 5 September 1944 from Special Agent McDonough of CIC, 1st Armored Division, which stated: "This man is not a PW. He is to be turned over to IV Corps CIC only."

During the course of an interrogation by this Agent, Subject declared his name to be BRESCIA Antonio, son of late Vito and of GATALANO Concetta, born on 26 July 1910 at Brindisi. From La Spezia, where Subject was in service with the Italian Navy, he had gone into hiding following the Italian Armistice with a partisan group commanded by Major CONTRI in the Carrara region. Subject is known as "Solitario" among the partisans.

This particular group of partisans is in close touch with British Intelligence and has been aided by British arms, dropped by plane.

About 4 September 1944, Subject, with his friend, Romualdo DEL PAPA, crossed the lines near Santa Margherita (Pisa sector), bearing photographs of fortifications in the Gothic line secured from an Italian engineer working for the TODT organization. Both men were to use the secret password "Cerco il maggiore biondo (I am looking for the blonde major)". Reference is made to an AAI directive for 20 July 1944, Subject: "Action to be taken with regard to returned friendly agents", wherein this password is cited.

Subject does not appear to have been anything but a secondary figure in this mission, however. He claims his own mission was to arrange for further arms for his partisan group. This seems to account for the fact that when Subject and DEL PAPA, after crossing the lines, were passed through various Allied headquarters (including CIC, 1st Armored Div.) to a British Intelligence office in Florence, DEL PAPA was sent to Rome and Subject was merely given a note to the Florence partisan headquarters, dated 7 September 1944. This note, signed by [redacted] states in Italian that Subject, as a partisan who has crossed the lines, is to be given all aid and assistance. Through an unfortunate error, this note was filled in with DEL PAPA's name instead of Subject's.

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Subject subsequently learned that Florence partisan headquarters had been dissolved, and spent the days of 7 and 8 September 1944 in a vain attempt to get in touch with [redacted] or some other Allied headquarters, being referred from office to office to no avail. When Subject eventually turned up at the refugee interrogation point operated by CIC, 5th

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Army, in Florence, he was sent to this office because of the note still in his possession from CIC, 1st Armored Div.

This Agent then transported Subject to the office of the 412th FSS. A check by telephone confirmed Subjec's statement concerning his note from (b)(1)  
While this tended to establish Subject's bona fides, it was (b)(3)  
considered advisable to turn Subject over to Capt. Hornby, FSO of this section, for further investigation. Capt. Hornby indicated to this Agent that he would bring Subject before an officer of the 300th FSS, which is the procedure outlined in the AAI directive previously mentioned for disposing of persons presenting the particular password familiar to Subject.

GORDON M. MESSING  
Special Agent, CIC

APPROVED:

STEPHEN J. SPINGARN  
Major, M. I.  
Chief, CIC, 5th Army

DIST: (2) G-2, 5th Army  
(1) 412th FSS  
(1) CIC, IV Corps, (with request it be  
passed on to CIC, 1st A.D.)  
File